

Arlington Recycling Committee  
Minutes of 12/1/11

Present: Co-Chairs Juli Brazile, Gordon Jamieson, DPW Assistant Director Teresa DeBenedictis, Sustainable Arlington Representative Charlotte Milan, AHS Recycling Coordinator Nigel Krauss, Eric Helmuth, Susan Stamps, Secretary Pete Howard

Waste tonnage: Gordon provided a chart showing annual waste tonnage since FY05 (Ref 1). The average decrease was 580 tons/year. Teresa noted that a 19hr/wk part time recycling coordinator position will be advertised in January.

Community Collection Day: The group discussed the CCD held 11/19/11. 192 CRTs were delivered. Police presence was helpful. Closing access to Grove St from Summer St worked to avoid confusion at the entrance. There was still some confusion on which line to use. Volunteer help unloading cars worked well. Attendance was somewhat lower than last year perhaps because a similar event was taking place at St. Camillas that morning. Attempts to promote energy audits by discussion were frustrated by the need to keep traffic moving. A better approach in the future would be a handout. Sneaker collection was good despite the late inclusion of this service. Paper shredding & bike donations were very busy. Clothing donations were very few. The SAVE redeemable bottle collection netted \$275.

Report to BoS on 12/5: Gordon & Juli will give an upbeat review of CCD w/ thanks to APD, DPW and HHS. They will advertise the e-waste collection service at the Grove St office of the DPW. They will review the places in Arlington that offer recycling collections and promote paper/cardboard/single stream recycling given that one-third of our solid waste stream is paper related.

Waste Reduction Strategies: Juli had solicited ideas from the community. The following were discussed & action decided.

Bulky Waste (mattresses & furniture): The suggestion was to charge a fee, but this material is not banned from the trash stream by DEP regulation and thus beyond the reach of our bylaw as written. Gordon has reached a company in Framingham that recycles this material. They usually collect the material for a price. They would be willing to accept the material at no cost if we delivered it. They have ample processing capacity. The material, however, must be dry. Perhaps the Town could provide large plastic bags like Christmas tree bags. Perhaps the waste hauling contract could be extended to include this service. A pilot program would be needed. Gordon will invite a company representative to a future ARC meeting to discuss further.

Publicity: Residents noted that many do not know about the services available. Suggestions included greater use of ACMI/Ch 3 & more frequent and shorter reminders through more different channels including but not limited to town website and as part of the E-alerts that are forwarded regularly to residents that have subscribed to that service. Consider letting biking groups know about Bikes Not Bombs at collection days. Put posters up in town hall (not sure how feasible). But the same short tips would work as power point slides on the cable channels. First project is a new "buck slip" to go in

the February tax bill. Gordon will check with Treasurer's office on the deadline. Juli, Eric & Susan will work up a draft of the slip featuring single stream and e-waste.

**Bigger Wheeled Recycling Bins:** Large bins could encourage recycling because the space would invite deposits. WM trucks have lifting arms that they could use. At \$50 each, this would be an expensive experiment. The present system where residents attach the green sticker to the container of their choice is much cheaper. Many residents do not have adequate storage space and we get constant inquiries regarding the feasibility of weekly recycling collection. Perhaps the Town could purchase a few large bins at bulk price and offer to sell them to residents w/o markup like the compost bins. Teresa will consider and investigate

**PAYT/SMART:** Juli reported no new developments but she continues to encourage Selectman Dan Dunn. He continues to favor a revenue-neutral approach where savings from the program would be returned to residents by check or tax bill reductions. Details on how this would work are not available. It was suggested that using a different name would avoid the negative association people have with paying for things. SMART: Save Money And Reduce Trash has been used elsewhere. Save As You Throw is also an option.

**Trash Limitation Regulation:** Teresa explained a different approach that is included as an option in the RFP that haulers are considering. The DPW would generate a regulation limiting each household to a set number of trash cans/bags per week. If a household wanted to have more collected, it would contact the hauler directly & would be billed by them. She also mentioned that one town has just started using iPads with town maps loaded to allow an enforcement officer to quickly track households that don't appear to be putting out recycling. Multiple occurrences provides a signal that the household doesn't recycle and they get a warning or ticket. Arlington by-laws include the legal right to open trash to determine if recyclables are included in the trash and fine residents. Teresa can look into how other towns actually implement such a program.

Gordon suggested promoting transferring a half-pound a day from trash to recycling for current recyclers and a higher goal for current non/poor-recyclers. If all households that currently recycle regularly were to do this then assuming 80% of households (regular recyclers) did this then  $1/2\text{lb/day/HH} \times 20,000\text{HH} \times 360\text{days} \times 80\% = 1,440\text{ tons/yr}$  in savings would be secured. And if the other 20% of households (poor/non-recyclers) were to recycle just 2lb/day/HH then an additional 1,440 tons in tip fee savings could be obtained. Total annual cost savings of 2880 tons = ca. \$216,000. We liked the general idea, but since so many new options are being considered by DPW during the trash contract bidding process, it makes more sense to wait to develop any new campaign until we know what changes, if anything, with the new contract.

Schedule of future meetings: First Thursday of each month. 1/5, 2/2, 3/1, 4/5, 5/3

Ref 1

